Over-crowded suburban trains in Mumbai

718. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mumbai suburban trains are over-crowded and have become a death trap as well as a source of harassment to women; and

(b) whether the Ministry of Railways has any immediate plans to bring relief to the Mumbai commuters, more particularly to the women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) It is a fact that suburban trains in Mumbai are over-crowded during morning and evening peak hours. However, these trains are not death traps or a source of harassment to women. Accommodation in suburban trains is earmarked for ladies apart from running ladies specials during peak hours. Police and Railway Protection Force including lady staff have been provided on platforms and in the ladies compartments especially during night time. In order to be more sensitive to the needs of the women commuters, special checking squads comprising lady ticket checking staff and lady constables from the Railway Protection Force have been formed for conducting checks against unauthorised travel in the ladies compartments.

(b) Railways make continuous efforts to bring relief to the commuters by increasing the number of 12 Coach Electrical Multiple Unit (EMU) services wherein additional accommodation for ladies is also provided.

Rail over-bridge at Gorakhpur

†719. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to construct an over-bridge at Gorakhpur;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of the plan and the total cost of the said over-bridge; and

(c) by when its foundation stone is likely to be laid?

THE" MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) A proposal for construction of a road-over-bridge at Dharamshala Bazar on 'deposit' terms has been received from State Government and is in planning stage. Details and cost are to be worked out. Construction work on bridge proper will start only after the completion of planning process and deposit of cost by State Government.

Safety in train journeys

†720. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(d) whether it is a fact that rail passengers have started feeling insecure during the journeys for the past few years;

(e) if so, whether Government have taken any steps for their safety; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Cess collection for Railway Safety Fund

†721. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(c) the total cess that the Ministry propose to collect towards the Railway Safety Fund;

(d) what aspects are going to be covered under this safety cess collected; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.